**Reasons**By and large, the people who settled in the **New England Colonies** wanted to keep their family unit together and practice their own religion. They were used to doing many things themselves and not depending on other people for much. Some of these people came to New England to make money, but they were not the majority.

The people who founded the **Middle Colonies** were looking to practice their own religion (Pennsylvania mainly) or to make money. Many of these people didn't bring their families with them from England and were the perfect workers for the hard work required in ironworks and shipyards.

The founders of the **Southern Colonies** were, for the most part, out to make money. They brought their families, as did the New England colonists, and they kept their families together on the plantations. But their main motivation was to make the good money that was available in the new American market.

**Economy**The New England Colonies were largely farming and fishing communities. The people made their own clothes and shoes. They grew much of their own food. Crops like corn and wheat grew in large numbers, and much was shipped to England. Foods that didn't grow in America were shipped from England. Boston was the major New England port.

The Middle Colonies were part agriculture, part industrial. Wheat and other grains grew on farms in Pennsylvania and New York. Factories in Maryland produced iron, and factories in Pennsylvania produced paper and textiles. Trade with England was plentiful in these colonies as well.

The Southern Colonies were almost entirely agricultural. The main feature was the plantation, a large plot of land that contained a great many acres of farmland and buildings in which lived the people who owned the land and the people who worked the land. (A large part of the workforce was African slaves, who first arrived in 1619.)

Southern plantations grew tobacco, rice, and indigo, which they sold to buyers in England and elsewhere in America.

**NEW ENGLAND COLONIES**

**Rhode Island**

**Founded:** 1636 by Roger Williams and others, at Providence

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (livestock, dairy, fishing), Manufacturing (lumbering)

**Major Cities**: Providence

**Colony Named for:** Dutch for ["red island"](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/ri_intro.htm)

**Connecticut**

**Founded:** 1636 by Thomas Hooker and others, at Hartford

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (wheat, corn, fishing)

**Major Cities**: Hartford, New Haven

**Colony Named for:** from an Algonquin word, quinnehtukqut, ["beside the long tidal river"](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/ct_intro.htm)

**Massachusetts**

**Founded:** 1630 by John Winthrop and others, at Massachusetts Bay

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (fishing, corn, livestock), Manufacturing (lumbering, shipbuilding)

**Major Cities**: Boston, Quincy, Plymouth, Salem, Lexington, Concord

**Colony Named for:** Massachusetts tribe (word means ["large hill place"](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/ma_intro.htm))

**New Hampshire**

**Founded:** 1638 by John Wheelwright and others

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (potatoes, fishing), Manufacturing (textiles, shipbuilding)

**Major Cities**: Concord

**Colony Named for:** [county of Hampshire in England](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/nh_intro.htm)

**MIDDLE COLONIES**

**Delaware**

**Founded:** 1638 by Peter Minuit and others

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (fishing), Manufacturing (lumbering)

**Major Cities**: Wilmington

**Colony Named for:** named for the Delaware tribe and for an early governor of colonial Virginia, [Lord de la Warr](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/de_intro.htm)

**New York**

**Founded:** 1626 by Peter Minuit and others, on Manhattan Island

**Major Industry:** Manufacturing (shipbuilding, iron works), Agriculture (cattle, grain, rice, indigo, wheat)

**Major Cities**: New York City, Albany

**Colony Named for:** [Duke of York](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/ny%5Fintro.htm)

**Pennsylvania**

**Founded:** 1682 by William Penn and others, at Philadelphia

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (wheat, corn, cattle, dairy), Manufacturing (textiles, papermaking, shipbuilding)

**Major Cities**: Philadelphia, Lancaster, York

**Colony Named for:** [William Penn's father and *sylvania*, Latin for "forest"](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/pa_intro.htm)

**New Jersey**

**Founded:** 1664 by English colonists

**Major Industry:** Manufacturing (ironworking, lumbering)

**Major Cities**: Trenton, Princeton

**Colony Named for:** [Isle of Jersey in England](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/nj_intro.htm)

**SOUTHERN COLONIES**

**Maryland**

**Founded:** 1633 by Lord Baltimore and others, at Baltimore

**Major Industry:** Manufacturing (shipbuilding, iron works), Agriculture (corn, wheat, rice, indigo)

**Major Cities**: Baltimore, Annapolis

**Colony Named for:** [Queen Henrietta Maria of England](http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/name.html)

**Virginia**

**Founded:** 1607 by John Smith and others, at Jamestown

**Major Industry:** Plantation agriculture (tobacco, wheat, corn)

**Major Cities**: Jamestown, Williamsburg, Richmond

**Colony Named for:** England's "Virgin Queen," [Elizabeth I](http://www.elizabethi.org/)

**North Carolina**

**Founded:** 1653 by Virginia colonists

**Major Industry:** Plantation agriculture (indigo, rice, tobacco)

**Major Cities**: Raleigh

**Colony Named for:** from *Carolus*, the Latin word for "Charles," [Charles I of England](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/nc_intro.htm)

**South Carolina**

**Founded:** 1663 by English colonists

**Major Industry:** Plantation agriculture (indigo, rice, tobacco, cotton, cattle)

**Major Cities**: Charleston

**Colony Named for:** from *Carolus*, the Latin word for "Charles," [Charles I of England](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/sc_intro.htm)

**Georgia**

**Founded:** 1732 by James Oglethorpe and others

**Major Industry:** Agriculture (indigo, rice, sugar)

**Major Cities**: Savannah

**Colony Named for:** [England's King George II](http://www.netstate.com/states/intro/ga_intro.htm)